

and wellness center, a gymnasium/student activities center, new dormitories, a communications center and a new administration building.

As a former member of the Wilberforce Board of Trustees, I have always found Dr. Henderson to be a dedicated educator and administrator, and a true advocate for the students and faculty at Wilberforce. His professional demeanor and extensive experience in Ohio's outstanding system of higher education have always made it a pleasure to work with Dr. Henderson and I have been privileged to have been able to work on the school's behalf in the Ohio State Senate and in Congress.

Dr. Henderson's comprehensive knowledge of higher education has been recognized with his selection to leadership positions in numerous educational organizations. He is a member of: the Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Commission of Cooperative Education, the Council of Presidents of The College Fund/United Negro College Fund, Minorities in Mathematics, Science and Engineering and the Givat Haviva Educational Foundation that oversees the education of college students in Israel.

Most recently, President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Henderson to serve on the President's Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Henderson received his bachelor's degree from the Hampton Institute in 1955, and his Master's degree in Education in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Henderson continued his studies at the University of Cincinnati and received his Doctorate of Education in Counselor Education.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to publicly recognize Dr. Henderson and his achievements on behalf of Wilberforce University. His many contributions to the educational growth of the nation's oldest privately funded historically black co-educational institution of higher learning are noteworthy and I thank him for his service.

#### A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD PITSCHE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Howard Pitsch in recognition of his long-term dedication to his community.

Howard is a twenty-year resident of Fort Greene who has assisted in promoting the progressive revitalization of the community. He is the chair of the Fort Greene Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation, strengthening community relations and improving the quality of life and parks. In this position, he has used his professional expertise as a marketing manager for Newsweek to enhance the profile of this vital community organization.

He builds relationships with social and cultural organizations to improve the Fort Greene and Downtown Brooklyn areas. The Fort Greene Association sponsors a scholarship for a student to attend the Brooklyn Music School. The Association also works to restore Fort

Greene Park and contributes to the creation of a Brooklyn Bridge Park.

As Fort Greene Association Chair, he serves as the liaison between the Association and elected officials, Community Board Two, the 88th Precinct Council and the Brooklyn Borough President's office. His ability to juggle and maintain these various relationships is a true talent.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Pitsch has dedicated himself to serving his Brooklyn community. As such, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DANIEL ROMERO

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero. Sergeant First Class Daniel Romero was killed while diffusing ordinance in Afghanistan on April 15, 2002. A member of the Colorado National Guard from Lafayette, Colorado, Daniel was called to active duty following the September 11 attacks against our country.

A ten-year veteran of the National Guard, Daniel was a communications specialist in the Special Forces. He also attended jump school, language school, and paramedic school. Daniel received the highest praise from his fellow soldiers including his Master Sergeant, who said, "I always rode him hard and every time he stepped up to the plate." He was sent with his unit to Afghanistan as a paramedic coordinator and ended up mastering a new communications system that had confused the rest of the unit. Daniel's versatility was just one of the traits that made him a model soldier.

Like so many of our brave men and women, Daniel left his home to defend his country. He left behind his parents Michael and GERALYN, his two sisters Stephanie and Gabrielle, and his new wife Stephanie Wendorf. To them, our humble nation thanks them and praises them, for they have paid the ultimate price in the name of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as we are engaged in this battle to free the world from terror, I am sure that every one of my colleagues will join me in saluting Sergeant First Class Daniel Romero. His dedication and devotion to his family, his unit, and his country can serve as an example to all Americans. He is a symbol of the values that makes America great and is a testament to the spirit that will see this country through even these troubled times.

#### CONGRATULATING NASA AND DR. FRANKLIN CHANG-DÍAZ FOR A SHUTTLE MISSION

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2002*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate NASA on the successful launch of the Space Shuttle Endeavour on June 6. This important mission has delivered the Expedition Five crew, and continues to in-

stall the Leonardo Multi-Purpose Logistics Module and the Mobile Remote Servicer Base System on the International Space Station.

This launch marks Endeavour's 18th flight and also marks the 14th shuttle flight to the space station. This launch is also historically significant because Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz makes a record-tying seventh flight into space. He now shares the record with Astronaut Jerry Ross.

During this mission, Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz, along with French Space Agency Astronaut Philippe Perrin have also preformed three scheduled spacewalks that continue the assembly of the International Space Station. These extravehicular activities mark the first time that Chang-Díaz and Perrin have been the first spacewalks for both astronauts.

Four years ago, I had the privilege of meeting and getting to know Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz, an outstanding scientist and an accomplished astronaut. During this four year period, Dr. Chang-Díaz has accompanied me to nine middle schools in my district to talk about the importance of our national space program and to encourage students to take more math and science classes. I have also had the opportunity to visit his plasma propulsion laboratory at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Dr. Chang-Díaz is a man of many talents. Not only is he the second human to make seven space flights, he is also currently developing the new Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR) concept. The VASIMR prototype rocket engine is designed to shorten the trip to Mars and provide a safer environment for the crew.

Dr. Chang-Díaz has been working with scientists at NASA and the Department of Energy to develop this project. To date, he has been able to secure just enough funding to keep the project operating. However, this project is too important to allow it to just survive. I am hopeful that NASA will quickly realize the need to have a dedicated stream of funding for the VASIMR project.

Our nation is fortunate to have such outstanding individuals, like Dr. Chang-Díaz and the other crew members, as part of our national space program. Our NASA astronauts are scheduled to arrive back to earth on Monday, June 17. At that time, I look forward to welcoming back our heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz, the Johnson Space Center in Houston and everyone at NASA for a successful launch and a successful mission.

#### HONORING NADINE CIOFFI AND THE WILLIAM FLOYD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2002*

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Ms. Nadine Cioffi and the William Floyd Elementary School in Mastic Beach, New York, upon their receipt of The New York State Health Facilities Association's "Group Volunteer of the Year" award for 2002.

Ms. Cioffi is honored today for her unwavering commitment to the students of William